

Good Morning, Secretary Salazar-

I would like to thank you for holding a regional meeting here in San Francisco to discuss the proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Protection and preservation of coastal environments along the North Coast has been a hallmark of my 35 plus years of public service – starting from my time on the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, to my eight years in the State Senate, and continuing now with my service in the State Assembly.

I proudly represent California's 1st Assembly District, which spans nearly 400 miles, from Bodega Bay in Sonoma County all the way north to the California-Oregon state border. My district contains one-third of California's entire 1,100 mile coastline.

The North Coast of California is one of the most biologically diverse regions of the state, a place of natural beauty with its thousands of acres of coastal redwood forests, pristine beaches, and abundant wildlife and fisheries habitats.

Specifically, I am here to express my strong opposition to the portion of the proposed Five-Year OCS plan that includes the Northern, Central and Southern California planning areas for oil and gas drilling. New drilling in these planning areas is simply unacceptable.

The risks of harming our coastal economy by opening these planning areas are far too great. I strongly encourage you to remove these planning areas before the proposed Five-Year OCS plan is finalized.

The beaches, forests, and ocean waters of the North Coast are an irreplaceable pristine resource and a critical source of income and jobs for the region I represent: In fact,

- **California coastal tourism is estimated to generate \$90 Billion dollars per year in revenue and provides employment for over 900,000 people.**
- **Recreational fishing in California's coastal waters was valued at \$2.2 Billion in 2006, providing nearly 20,000 jobs.**
- **Commercial fishermen along California's coast landed \$130 million dollars worth of fish and shellfish in 2006, (before accounting for processing and resale) and this plan comes at a time when the traditionally valuable salmon fishery has seen a downturn.**

I do not believe risking any of these jobs and economic returns for the potential 8 billion barrels of oil that might lie off the coast – according to the estimates in the Proposed Five-Year OCS Plan – is worth the possibility of that kind of loss.

California is projected to suffer tens of billions of dollars in damage and require additional billions of dollars to

**adapt to the impacts of climate change and sea level
rise.**

**I do not want to exacerbate all this by allowing the
production of more oil and gas that is likely to only
contribute to the problem.**

**Rather, the national policy should follow California's
example of shifting towards a clean energy future with
programs for solar roofs, major investments in clean,
renewable energy, conservation, and more. Any drilling
off the coast will send the wrong message to Americans
about the urgency of making this shift to true energy
independence.**

**Drilling offshore of Northern California will only prolong
our dependence on a non-renewable, greenhouse gas
producing, fossil fuel, and delay our move to true
energy independence.**

**I strongly urge you to remove all California planning
areas from any oil and gas activities in the Proposed
Five-Year OCS plan.**